

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11, 16-18, 20-22, 24-39, 42-46, 48-50, 52-67, 72-74, 76-78 and 80-126 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 29, 57, 85, 99, and 113 are amended, claims 15, 43, and 71 are cancelled. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 103

The final Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 8-9, 18, 20-33, 36-37, 46, 48-50, 52-61, 64-65, 71-74, 76-78 and 80-84 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail, (U.S. Pat # 6,614,987), in view of Rosin, (U.S. Pat # 6,028,600), and Schein (U.S. Patent # 5,801,787) and further in view of Emura (U.S. Patent #6,344,878). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 29, and 57 to include features of claims 15, 43, and 71, respectively. The final Office Action states that Claims 15-16, 43-44, and 71-72 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, Claims 1, 29, and 57 are allowable. Claims 2-5, 8-9, 16-28, and 30-33, 36-37, 44-56, and 58-61, 64-65, 72-84, are dependent upon independent Claims 1, 29, and 57, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 103

The final Office Action rejected Claims 85-126, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail, Rosin, and Schein, in view of Akamatsu (U.S. Pat. #7,224,886). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended Claims 85, 99, and 113 to include features of claims 15, 43, and 71, respectively. Claims 85, 99, and 113 are allowable. Claims 86-90, 93-98, and 100-104, 107-112, and 114-118, 121-126, are dependent upon independent Claims 85, 99, and 113, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 85-126, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail, Rosin, Schein and Emura, in view of Wood (U.S. PG PUB. #2002/0054752 A1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended Claims 85, 99, and 113 to include features of claims 15, 43, and 71, respectively. Claims 85, 99, and 113 are allowable. Claims 86-90, 93-98, and 100-104, 107-112, and 114-118, 121-126, are dependent upon independent Claims 85, 99, and 113, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The final Office Action states that Claims 15-16, 43-44, and 71-72 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 29, 57, 85, 99, and 113 to incorporate features of dependent Claims 15, 43, and 71 in their respective formats.

V. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments herein and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1214 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 23, 2009

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